

on Social Security running deficits by 2012, and headed toward bankruptcy in the early 2020's.

With a permanently balanced budget, the federal government will be forced to prioritize money for these programs and others important to Coloradans. By reducing the amount we borrow to meet today's federal debt obligations, we pay less interest on the national debt each year.

Even with all of these incentives to pass the Balanced Budget Amendment, it won't be easy. There are still too many big spenders in Washington who are adept at creating new, expensive programs for every problem. Under the Balanced Budget Amendment, liberals won't be able to continue their free spending ways without considering the long-term consequences to Colorado families like Delmar's.

It's time to stop runaway government spending. Coloradans balance their checkbooks every day, knowing they can't spend money they don't have. I don't think there's any reason to expect less of the federal government.

By passing the Balanced Budget Amendment, Delmar will be assured bureaucrats in Washington will have to worry about making ends meet, just like he does.

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TRIBUTE TO MRS. BETTY WELLS  
AND MR. ERNIE MCCOLLUM  
UPON THEIR RETIREMENTS

**HON. DAVID D. PHELPS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mr. PHELPS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to two of my constituents on the occasion of their retirement from the Board of Trustees of the Rend Lake Conservancy District. Rend Lake is a major southern Illinois reservoir whose construction was prompted by a severe regional drought in the 1950s. The Rend Lake Conservancy District operates a water treatment plant which serves 300,000 people in over 60 communities, as well as the Lake's enormously popular recreational facilities, which boast a golf course and resort, as well as hunting, fishing, camping, and boating.

Needless to say, the work of the Conservancy District is immensely important to the people of southern Illinois, and to the entire state, and it would not be possible without the leadership of a dedicated and capable Board of Trustees. Sadly, two esteemed members of this Board have recently announced their retirement and I am here today to express my deep appreciation for the service of Mrs. Betty Wells of Jefferson County and Mr. Ernie McCollum of Franklin County. These two remarkable people have contributed outstanding service to the people of southern Illinois through their excellent stewardship. I know their presence on the Board will be missed but their accomplishments will surely be long remembered. Mr. Speaker, I hope you will join me in wishing Mrs. Wells and Mr. McCollum the very best in whatever the future may hold for them.

EMPLOYEE OWNERSHIP  
ENHANCEMENT ACT

**HON. JAMES A. TRAFICANT, JR.**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mr. TRAFICANT. Mr. Speaker, if our economy is so great, then why are American workers losing their jobs? If our economy is so great, then why are American workers going bankrupt in record numbers? If our economy is so great, who do many families need three jobs just to pay their bills? And Mr. Speaker, if our economy is so great, why are so many manufacturing plants going out of business?

On May 31, 1997, something happened in my congressional district that deeply affected 70 of my constituents and their families. The Camcar Textron Brainard Rivet plant in Girard, Ohio closed its doors and told its workers to go home. The workers at this plant, scared for their futures and the futures of their families, wanted to work with the parent company of Camcar, Textron to negotiate an employee buyout through an Employee Stock Ownership Plan (ESOP). Unfortunately, Textron did not feel that selling the plant to the employees through an ESOP would be in the best interests of the company. I was particularly concerned over the fact that Textron has referred 50 former Brainard Rivet customers to another non-Textron company. These customers could have been the base for an employee-owned company.

Mr. Speaker, Congress needs to do all it can to encourage ESOPs. That is why today I am introducing legislation, the "Employee Ownership Enhancement Act," to require that an employer closing a manufacturing plant to offer the employees an opportunity to purchase the business through an ESOP. This legislation would exempt companies that are planning to continue using the assets and/or capital from a closed plant at another location or the companies that close a plant but still are manufacturing the same product at another plant.

The current economy presents many challenges for both workers and employers. Congress needs to put in place reasonable laws to enable hard working Americans a chance to own and operate manufacturing plants if the owners don't want to anymore. My bill would apply to only a handful of plant closings a year, but would provide hope and opportunity to thousands of workers and their families. It is that simple.

I urge all my colleagues to support this very important piece of legislation.

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IN HONOR OF THE EARNEST  
MACHINE PRODUCTS COMPANY

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Earnest Machine Products Company as they celebrate their fiftieth year in business. Earnest Machine Products Company

has proven itself as an outstanding family-owned business that adheres to simple principles of exceptional customer service, customer loyalty, and close employee relations.

In 1947 Paul and Victor Zehnder started the Zehnder Engineering and Machine Company in Cleveland. The company manufactured and sold various industrial supplies until 1948, when Paul began selling surplus track shoe bolts. The bolts were in high demand at the time, and they enabled Paul to begin a long career of distributing nuts and bolts. In 1951 the company name was officially changed to the Earnest Machine Products Company. By 1967 the company's sales had tripled and Earnest Machine Products Company kept introducing new industrial products, such as enamel paints and roller bearings. Eventually, business expanded to include distributors in all 50 states.

Quality products and hard work are important components to the success of Earnest Machine Products Company, but strong customer service and loyal employees are the backbone of the company's history of success. From the very beginning Zehnder promoted outstanding customer service by accepting collect calls before toll free numbers were introduced. The employees are treated like family. That sentiment, and steady growth over 50 years has enabled Earnest to establish and maintain a base of loyal employees. In fact, over 70 percent of the work force has been with the company for 15 years or more.

In 1998 Earnest received ISO 9002 certification, which recognizes that the company is a quality supplier of industrial fasteners by American and European Quality Assurance agencies. Earnest has also maintained an accredited lab to test and insure the quality of their product. Today, Earnest Machine Products Company distributes over 30,000 different fastener types and sizes.

The Earnest Machine Products Company has proven that adherence to employees, customer service, and quality can produce a successful business.

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TRIBUTE TO AMOS W. ALLARD

**HON. BOB SCHAFFER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, February 4, 1999*

Mr. SCHAFFER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay humble tribute to the life and legacy of Amos W. Allard, who died Monday, February 1, 1999 in Ft. Collins, Colorado. Mr. Allard was born on a ranch near Walden, Colorado on May 14, 1920 to Arthur Allard and Pearl Wade Allard. He is the Great Grandson of James O. Pinkham, the first permanent settler in North Park.

Amos Allard attended schools in Denver, Walden and Fort Collins. He graduated from Fort Collins High School in 1937. Later he attended Colorado A.&M., now known as Colorado State University, and the University of Missouri, where he received his Bachelor of Sciences degree.

On July 18, 1941, he married Jean Stewart. After he served his country in the United States Navy during World War II, Amos and